

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark (U.S. Patent No. 4,966,644). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants previously submitted that Clark does not teach that Clark fails to teach or suggest that "the pair of feeding means is positioned in contact with each other when the marker is adhered to the predetermined sheet, and separated from each other when sheets not receiving a marker are fed." The Examiner has responded by asserting that Clark teaches "and separated from each other when sheets not receiving a marker are fed" because claim 1 requires (x), contact and no contact, or (y), contact or no contact. Thus, the Examiner believes that claim 1 requires either (x) or (y), but does not require (x) and (y). The Examiner then referred to line 11 of claim 1, which recites "and/or". Respectfully, the Examiner is misunderstanding the claim.

The limitation discussed above does not recite "and/or" and it is improper to read that into the above-recited claim limitation. While it is true that the maker and sheet feeder will either be in contact with each other and/or separate from each other, this merely means that some of the time the feeding means will be in contact with each other and some of the time the feeding means will not be in contact with each other, the fact remains that Clark does not teach the instance in which the feeding means will be separated from each other when sheets not receiving a marker are fed, which is clearly being claimed. Regardless of the recitation of "and/or" previously in the claim to describe the operation of the feeding means which make up the maker and sheet feeder, Clark does not teach that the pair of feeding means will be positioned in contact with each other when the marker is adhered and will be separated from each other when sheets

not receiving a marker are fed. Clark teaches that every card receives a part of tape until the part of tape is removed. This clearly distinguishes claim 1 from Clark.

Claims 2, 4 and 14 are allowable at least due to their dependency from claim 1.

Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Applicants' admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 recites all of the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1. Clark fails to teach or suggest these features and the prior art discussion in this application also fails to teach or suggest these features. Thus, claim 12 is allowable in light of the above arguments. Claim 13 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 12. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 above, and further in view of Vonderhorst et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,492). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the above remarks specifically pointing out that Clark does not teach that which is asserted by the Examiner. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 above and further in view of Nobile (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,594). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the above remarks specifically pointing out that Clark does not teach that which is asserted by the Examiner. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Busk (U.S. Patent No. 3,245,859) in view of Lowe (U.S. Patent No. 3,926,713). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Busk and Lowe fail to teach or suggest the above-quoted feature of claim 1 for the same reasons Clark fails to teach this feature. Again, the Examiner is improperly interpreting the claim. Lowe is not being relied upon as teaching this feature, and, Lowe does not in any event teach or suggest this feature.

The remaining rejections of claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 are respectfully traversed in light of the above remarks specifically pointing out that Busk and Lowe do not teach that which is asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

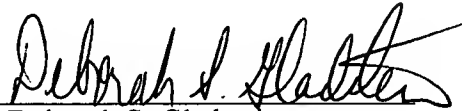
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Respectfully submitted,

By:



Deborah S. Gladstein
Registration No. 43,636

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 760-7753
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777